

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 19 are pending in this application.

The Objection to the Abstract

The Abstract is objected to because of the back and forth movement device and the tilt adjusting device were associated with the same symbol (TAD). The symbol associated with the back and forth movement device is changed herein from TAD to MD, as was clearly intended.

The Objections to the Claims

Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, and 14-17 are objected to for informalities identified in the Office Action. These informalities are corrected by amendment herein.

The Rejections based upon Prior Art

1. Claims 1-3, 5-10 and 12-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,000,760 (“Chung ‘760”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Chung is directed to a device for tilting a headrest for automobiles and moving the headrest forward and backward. However, Chung ‘760 fails to disclose or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 1 and does not support a rejection either for anticipation or obviousness.

Claim 1 recites a back and forth movement device comprising a pair of parallel members (levers 128), one end of the levers being pivotally connected to the horizontal portion 112 of stay 114. This structure is best seen in Figs. 12 and 13.

Referring now to Figs. 8, 10a and 10b of Chung ‘760, please note that the back and forth movement device 100 is not pivotally mounted on the horizontal portion 11 of stay 10.

Rather, brackets 110 contact the horizontal portion 11 but are not pivotally mounted thereto. Mobile panel 150 slides back and forth. But panel 150 is pivotally linked to bracket 110 by means of levers 130. Bracket 110 is stationary. Thus, Chung '760 does not disclose a device for moving a headrest back and forth wherein one end of the back and forth movement device is pivotally connected to the horizontal portion of the stay, as required by claim 1.

As noted in Applicants' specification at page 2, the device of Chung '760 is a relatively complicated structure. The tilt adjusting device and the back and forth movement device are separately required, which results in increased production costs and time, and lowered work efficiency during manufacture.

The Chung '760 device has a different structure and operation and does not support a rejection of the claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

2. Claims 4 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Chung '760 in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,650,549 ("Yokota"). Yokota is directed to a headrest for a vehicle seat and is cited for disclosing a ratchet member (5) having two opposite gear portions (12).

Actually item (5) is a fixed frame. Teeth (12) belong to a lock plate (11). Claims 4 and 11 require the ratchet member RM to be installed on the horizontal portion of the stay or one of the parallel members of the tilt adjusting device (TAD) or the back and forth movement device (MD). The Yokota device does not meet either of these requirements. The fixed frame (5), not

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the lock plate (11), is attached to the stay (2). The lock plate (11) is secured to the fixed frame (5), not a tilt adjustment device or back and forth movement device.

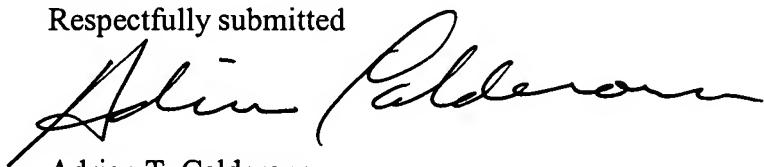
Moreover, Yokota does not cure the deficiencies of Chung '760 discussed above.

Accordingly, even if these two references were to be combined as suggested in the Office Action, Applicants' claimed invention would not be disclosed or suggested. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons stated above all of the pending claims are submitted to be in condition for allowance, the same being respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted



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